

## HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

500 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE  
SUITE 1900  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071

Tel.: (213) 337-6700  
Fax: (213) 337-6701

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### IMPORTANT NOTICE TELECOPY/FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

TO: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Examiner: Elizabeth S. Quan  
Art Unit: 1743

DATE: September 28, 2004

FROM: Wei-Ning Yang/Barry M. Shuman

TIME:

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER: 14

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#### MESSAGE:

RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/780,804, Our Ref. 81841.0183

I hereby certify that the following documents:

- Amendment/Amendment Transmittal Letter

are being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, for filing in the above application.

September 28, 2004  
Date of Deposit

  
Evelyn Menjivar

TELECOPY/FAX NUMBER: 703-872-9306 - Art Unit 1743

CLIENT NUMBER: 81841.0183

ATTORNEY BILLING NUMBER: 6085

CONFIRMATION NUMBER: (571) 272-1261 (please return fax to Diane Zynn)

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FORM PTO-1083

SEP 28 2004

81841.0183  
Patent Application No. 09/780,804

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

David L. Goodale

Serial No: 09/780,804

Confirmation No.: 8653

Filed: February 9, 2001

For: LATCH SYSTEM AND MODIFIED BLADE DESIGN  
FOR THICK STOPPER-CLOSED CONTAINER  
SAMPLING PIERCING STATION

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Elizabeth S. Quan

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to (703) 872-9306:	
Commissioner for Patents	
P.O. Box 1450	
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on	
September 28, 2004	Date of Deposit:
Evelyn Menjivar	Name
<i>Evelyn Menjivar</i>	Signature
09/28/04	Date

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Col. 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		(Col. 3) PRESENT EXTRA*	LG/SM \$ ENTITY FEE	ADD'L FEE DUE
TOTAL CLAIMS FEE	29	-	31	**	0	LG=\$18 SM=\$9	\$ 0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS FEE	3	-	3	***	0	LG=\$84 SM=\$42	\$ 0
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS						LARGE ENTITY FEE = \$280 SMALL ENTITY FEE = \$140	\$ 0
Independent Claims: 1, 11, 21						TOTAL	\$ 0

\* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

\*\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space. The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box on Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

☐ Please charge the fee of \$\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_ extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.☒ Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.By: *Barry M. Shuman*  
Wei-Ning Yang (contact person)  
Registration No. 38,690  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Barry M. Shuman  
Registration No. 50,220

Date: September 28, 2004

Biltmore Tower  
500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900  
Los Angeles, California 90071  
Telephone: 213 337-6700  
Facsimile: 213 337-6701

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Appl. No. 09/780,804

Customer No.: 26021

Reply to Office Action of July 2, 2004

SEP 28 2004

PATENT  
2048-039 (81841.0183)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

David L. Goodale

Serial No: 09/780,804

Confirmation No.: 8653

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BLADE DESIGN FOR THICK  
STOPPER-CLOSED CONTAINER  
SAMPLING PIERCING STATION

Art Unit: 1743

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on  
September 28, 2004  
Date of Deposit  
Evelyn Menjivar  
Signature Date 09/28/04

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 2, 2004, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.